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AUGUST 27.

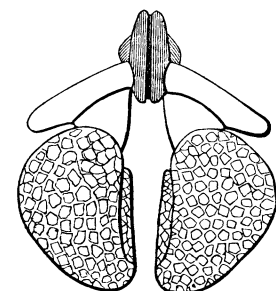
The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

Foraminifera of the Coast of New Jersey.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that in recent visits to Cape May and Atlantic City he had incidentally examined the shore sands for foraminifera. In both localities, between tides, along the slight ridges left by the receding waves, he had found an abundance of specimens, but they appeared all to belong to a single species, which he supposed to be the *Nonionina millepora*. On the sandy beaches of the rocky New England shores, as at Newport, R. I., and Noank, Conn., he had observed a far greater quantity, of several genera and species.

Sensitive Organs in Stapelia—Dr. J. GIBBONS HUNT remarked that his attention had been called to the flower of *Stapelia asterias* by Mr. Isaac Burk, who had expressed the opinion that it was probably a fly-catcher. The flower of this plant is well known to botanists because of its extremely disagreeable and animal odor, which appears to attract many flies when the flower is matured. Continuous observation for several hours, under a lens which took in a large field of view, revealed many flies eagerly applying their tongues all over the petals and essential organs, apparently eating with almost intoxicated relish the attractive excretion covering those parts. This banquet was indulged in in safety until their tongues came in contact with one or more of five black spots situated near and alternate with the stamens, when, with amazing quickness, the fly was seized and firmly held

by the tongue, a hopeless prisoner. Now a struggle commenced, and, if the fly was small and not vigorous, he remained in the trap, but, if large and strong, his efforts to escape were successful, and he flew away, dragging from its position the black sensitive spot and also the pollen masses, two of which are attached to each trap. This adhesion of the fly's tongue to these black spots is not caused by any cementing liquid, but it is fairly caught by an organic structure, the



action resembling that of a common steel-trap used for catching rats.

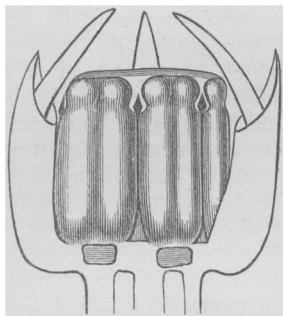
The figure shows the arrangement and connection of these parts. The organ at the junction of the pollen masses is the sen-

sitive trap, and when touched, however lightly, by the fly or other object (as a hair, for example), the opposing, separated, parallel, and hard edges instantaneously close like pincers, and the prey is secured.

Stapelia belongs to the Asclepiadacea, and analogous sensitive organs attached to the pollen masses exist in other genera, and perhaps in all that natural order. We have probably no other vegetable fly-catcher so instantaneous in its action as the organ he had described, and he could therefore confirm Mr. Burk's observation.

Sensitive Organs in Asclepias.—Mr. EDWARD POTTS stated that, at the suggestion of Dr. Hunt, he had examined such species of the genus *Asclepias* as were within his reach, with the view to determine whether a sensitiveness and contractile power existed in the dark gland-like bodies associated with their pollen masses,

Fig. 1.



similar to those which Dr. Hunt had discovered in *Stapelia*. On account of the lateness of the season, his observations were limited to the *A. incarnata*, native, and a cultivated species, the *A. curassavicum*, and, as these were identical as to the points under examination, his description would be understood to apply to both. The accompanying wood-cut (Fig. 1) clearly shows the position and form of the so-called glands (which may be easily seen on the flower by the aid of a pocket magnifying glass), near the extremity of the pistil, just peeping out

from beneath the mantles of adjacent anthers. These latter are closely adherent to the pistil, or more properly to its stigma, and

Fig. 2.



when separated therefrom present, on the under side, the appearance he had endeavored to show in fig. 2, of a pair of sacks or cases in which the pollen masses are suspended, left open at the top apparently with a view to facilitate their withdrawal. The sensitive glands are placed in shallow depressions upon the perpendicular columnar ridges of the stigma, and seem to be attached to it by a very delicate, easily ruptured membrane. Fig. 3 represents one of these as connected by somewhat broad and twisted filaments, with the two adjacent pollen masses of neighboring

anthers, not those belonging to the same. In this sketch he had endeavored to represent it as open and expectant, and in fig. 4, as firmly grasping a slender hair. The fact of the removal of these groups by insect agency has been frequently mentioned; his ex